

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCA-01 CPR-02 L-03 OPR-02

PER-05 M-03 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PPT-02

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SCA: EJHARPER

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P R 311522 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104163

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: PASSPORT PROBLEM: PERSONNEL EXCHANGE

REFS : TRIPOLI 688, STATE 96495

KHARTOUM FOR BLAKE

1. IN CONVERSATION MAY 30 WITH LIBYAN CHARGE ZAGAAR,
DEPTOFF RAISED IDEA OF EXCHANGE OF STAFF PERSONNEL ALONG
LINES PROPOSED REFTELS. ZAGAAR EXPRESSED INTEREST, AND
SAID HE WOULD REFER MATTER TO TRIPOLI FOR RESPONSE.

2. DEPTOFF SAID SPECIFICALLY PROCEDURAL DETAILS WOULD HAVE
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TO BE WORKED OUT CAREFULLY IN ADVANCE IN VIEW OF OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH COUNTRYMAN REFUSAL FOLLOWING ASSURANCES FROM MFA THAT THERE WOULD BE " NO PROBLEM" WITH COUNTRYMAN' S REENTRY. ZAGAAR APPEARED UNFAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF LAST COUNTRYMAN REFUSAL, BUT SAID HE WOULD FIRST SEEK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO EXCHANGE, FOLLOWING WHICH PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS COULD BE ADDRESSED.

3. EMBASSY MAY OF COURSE DISCUSS EXCHANGE PROPOSAL AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE WITH MFA. WHILE IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR SCHAUER' S REPLACEMENT TO BE ONBOARD EMBASSY TRIPOLI BEFORE VISA ISSUED TO ABEDSAID AND WIFE, WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY WISH TO MAKE THAT CONDITION A SINE QUA NON. ZAGAAR AT LEAST ON NOTICE THAT " WORD" OF MFA NOT SUFFICIENT IN THIS CASE. WE INCLINED TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT RESPONSE, IF ANY, LARG MAKES TO PROPOSAL BEFORE DECIDING ON PROCEDURAL CONDITIONS. IF MFA BALKS AT PRIOR ARRIVAL OF US STAFF MEMBER, SOME WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM MFA MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF IT INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT AUTHORITIES IN CONTROL OF ADMISSIONS AT AIRPORT INFORMED AND HAVE AGREED TO ENTRY.

4. COMMENT: ZAGAAR APPEARED PERSONALLY TO REACT POSITIVELY TO PROPOSAL OF EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, LIBYAN EMBASSY OPERATIONS HERE ARE CLEARLY INCREASINGLY LIMITED. ZAGAAR SAID FORMER CHARGE BEN MUSA RETURNED TO LIBYA MAY 29, FORMER AMBASSADOR SUWESI RETURNED LAST WEEK, AND PRESS OFFICER AL- BARASSI DEPARTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. ZAGAAR AND THIRD SECRETARY GADDOUR ONLY REMAINING OFFICERS IN MAIN LIBYAN CHANCERY. (CULTURAL SECTION UNDER TAYYAR SEEMS TO BE GOING STRONG IN SEPARATE OFFICE BUILDING.) TO THE EXTENT EMBASSY OPERATIONS MAY BE PURPOSELY BEING WOUND DOWN PRIOR TO MERGER OF EMBASSY WITH EGYPTIAN INTERESTS SECTION, LARG MAY NOW BE LESS INTERESTED IN SENDING STAFF REPLACEMENT THAN IN THE PAST. RUSH

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